ISSN 0712-7774

CEREBUS

100
JUL

$1.70 USA ● $2.00 CANADA ● £1 UK

N O T E • F R O M • T H E P R E S I D E N T

The nature of fame -- the sort of minor fame represented by a comic book with a circulation of thirty-odd thousand -- has been much on my mind of late. I am going through one of my anti-fame periods right now -- the sheer absurdity of spending an afternoon explaining to a reporter why I am famous outweighing any possible benefit an article could have for my "career". Quite simply, I am **not** famous. If you have to explain to people who you are, then, in my book, you are not famous. Everyday, on a news program or radio show, in a newspaper, newsmagazine or entertainment supplement, I read about people like me who, for that moment, are plugged into the star-maker machinery. All that is needed is an esoteric achievement, some minor success in an environment people **have** heard of (Time Magazine, CBS, Entertainment Tonight, National Review, PeeWee's Playhouse) and an "expert" to declare your worth in extravagant language (the greatest free-style glass-blower of his generation, a unicyclist of such unorthodox and innovative style and grace, the ceramic candle-stick maker who re-wrote the book on ceramic candle-stick making). Never once in reading about these people have I thought "Wow. That person is famous". I **have** thought "What a perfectly odd thing to do for a living." If you asked me five minutes after reading, watching or listening to an item what the chap's name was, I wouldn't have a clue. Nor have I ever felt compelled to buy someone's book on the history of glass-blowing, scalped tickets for the next World Invitational Indoor Unicyclist Competition, or invested in a pricey set of antique ceramic candle-stick holders.

Ger and I were labouring away on the pages one day when a particularly snotty and insistent reporter from **Maclean's** was trying to get me to do an interview for an article about "adult comics" (with threats that she would quote me as refusing to be interviewed and that she would "rather talk to Bill Marks anyway"), (I declined) and a phrase popped into my head.

"It was much-admired among people who like that sort of thing."

I couldn't draw. I was laughing so hard, tears were coming out of my eyes. I'd just get myself under control and I'd be off again. Giggling for an hour or so.

Excuse me.

I have to go and read my copy of The Unicycle Journal. There's an interview with Horst Pimsley (easily one of the top five unicyclists working today), and I hope to get him to autograph it at the big Unicycle Con that's held every year in Baltimore.

Really.

It's just a matter of time before unicycling takes it's place as the most popular recreational activity in North America, surpassing golf and gardening.

After all, **60 Minutes** is doing a piece on unicycling. Horst Pimsley and Fred Zelobowski were on **Entertainment Tonight**. Horst was featured in a three-page article in **Newsweek** and there was a picture of Hulk Hogan riding a unicycle in **Wrestling Madness #28.**

I believe, fellow unicyclists, our time has come.

CEREBUS

NO. 100 JULY 1987

DAVE SIM
President

KAREN McKIEL
Administrator

GERHARD
Backgrounds, cover-colour and tones

Circulation
37,000

CHURCH AND STATE
a novel

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BOOK ONE
(Cerebus 52 to Cerebus 56)
Aprés State

•

BOOK TWO
(Cerebus 57 to Cerebus 63)
Back to Iest

•

BOOK THREE
(Cerebus 64 to Cerebus 80)
Church and State

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BOOK FOUR
(Cerebus 81 to Cerebus 89)
The Sacred Wars

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BOOK FIVE
(Cerebus 90 to Cerebus 101)
Astoria

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BOOK SIX
The Final Ascension

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BOOK SEVEN
Denoument and Epilogue

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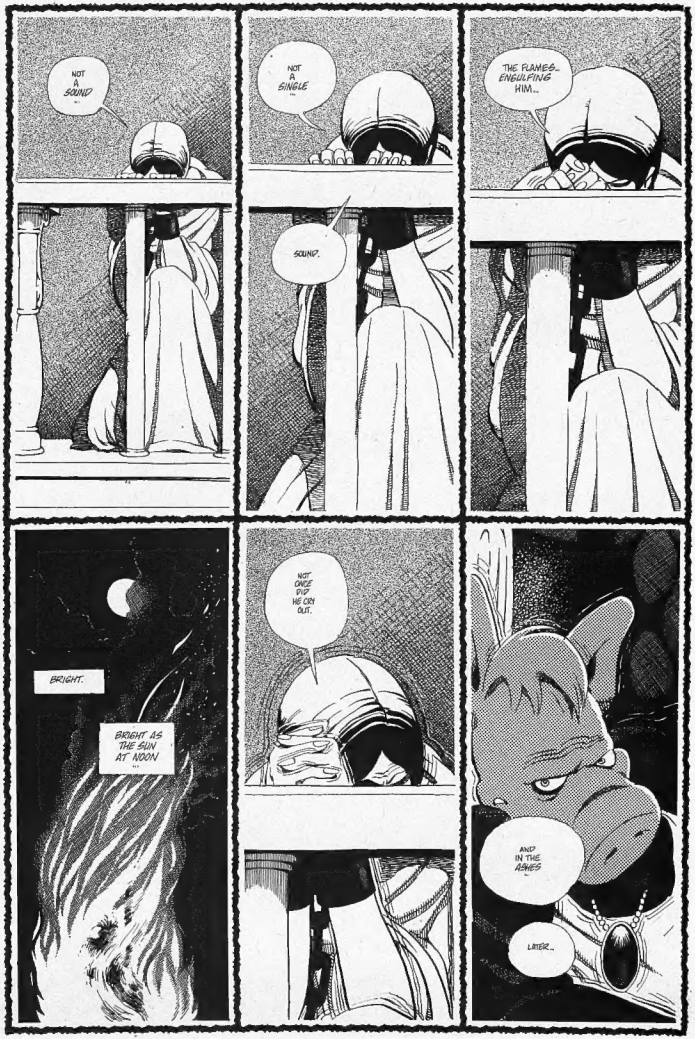
BY PRENEY PRINT & LITHO INC., WINDSOR, ONTARIO

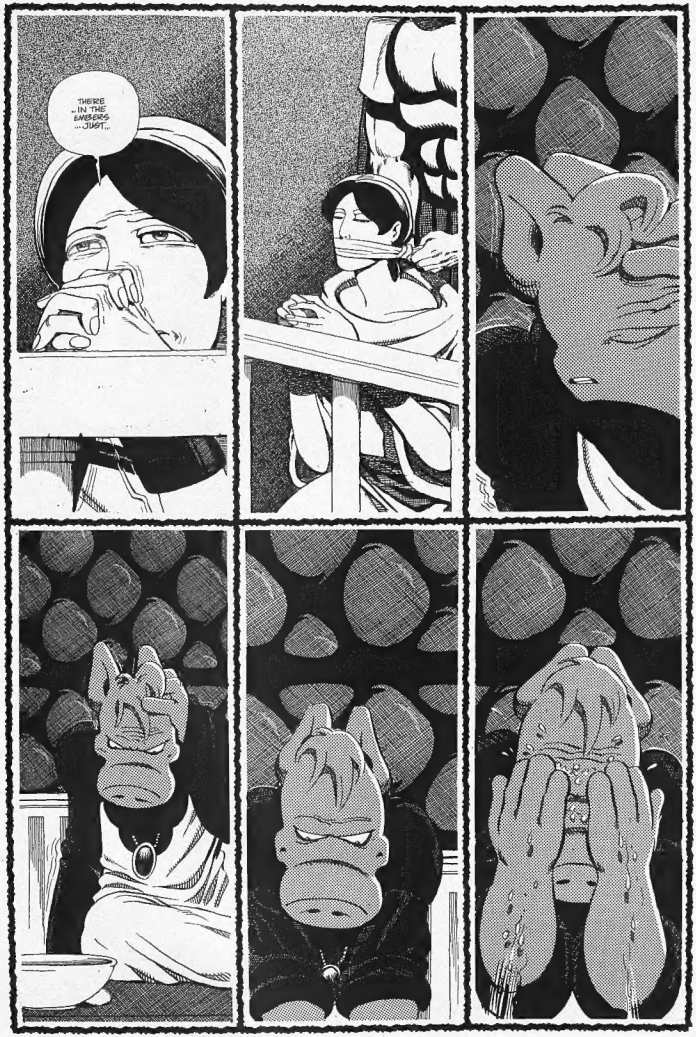
Dave and Ger will be guests Aug. 30th Toronto Charity Comic Con, Concert Hall, Toronto 888 Yonge Street.

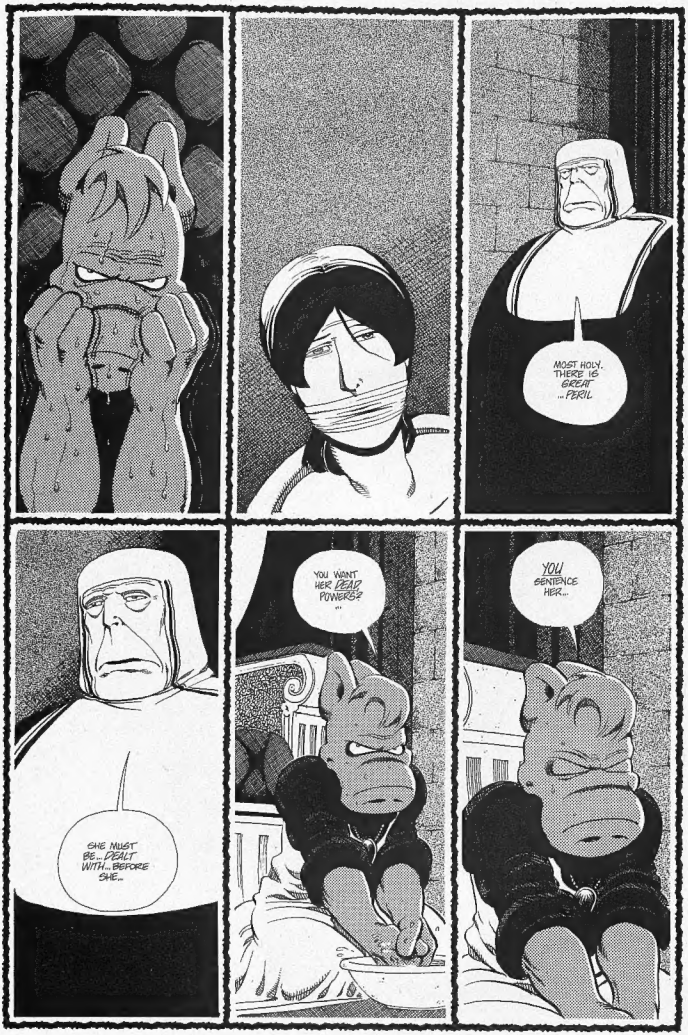
ENDGAME

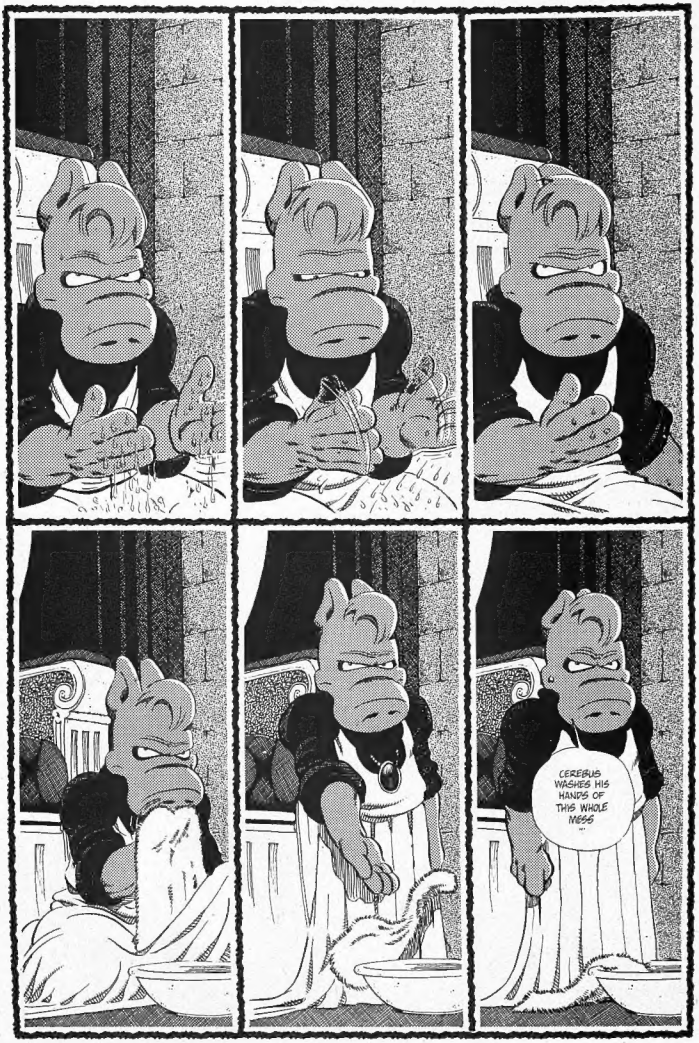
M-M-MOST H-HOLY-T'VE B-BROUGHT Y-YOU
W-W-WATER
AND A T-T-TOWEL TO C-C-C-CLEAN Y-Y-YOUR... TO C-C-CLEAN UP TH-THE
F-F-FOR C-CLEANING
THERE'S A M-M-MESSAGE AS W-WELL
"ANOTHER F-F-FLAW"
"THE FOURTH CASTING WILL BE U-U-DONE T-T-TOMORROW"
TH-THEY SAID Y-YOU WOULD KNOW W-WHAT IT M-MEANT

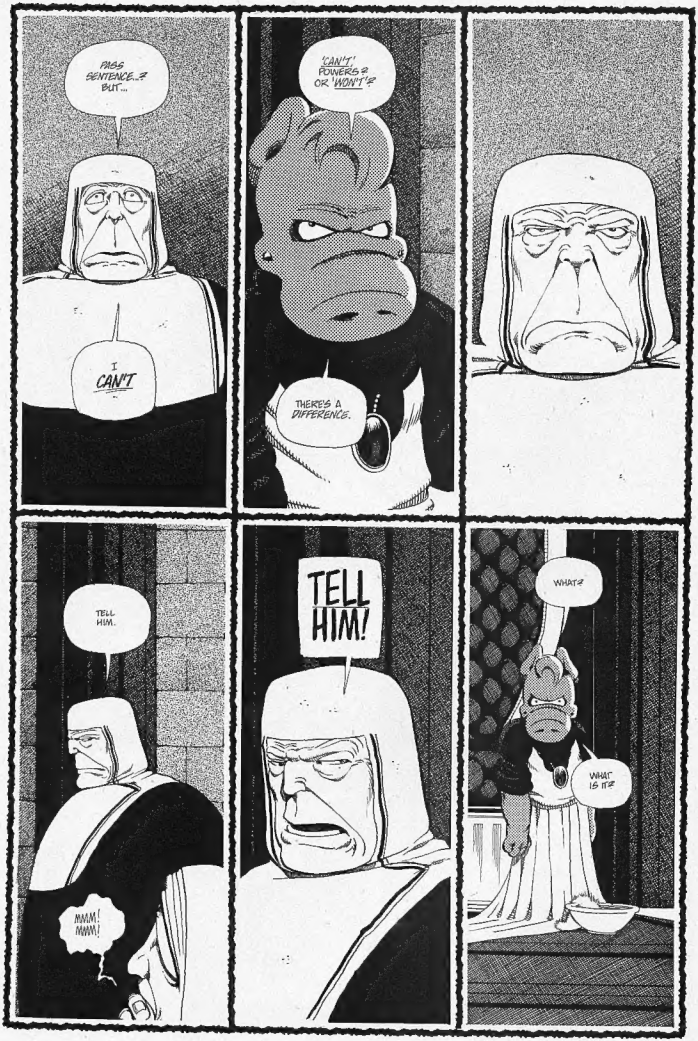

NOT A SOUND...
NOT A SINGLE...
THE FLAMES... ENGULFING HIM...
SOUND?
BRIGHT.
BRIGHT AS THE SUN AT NOON...
NOT ONCE DID HE CRY OUT.
AND IN THE ASHES...
LATER...

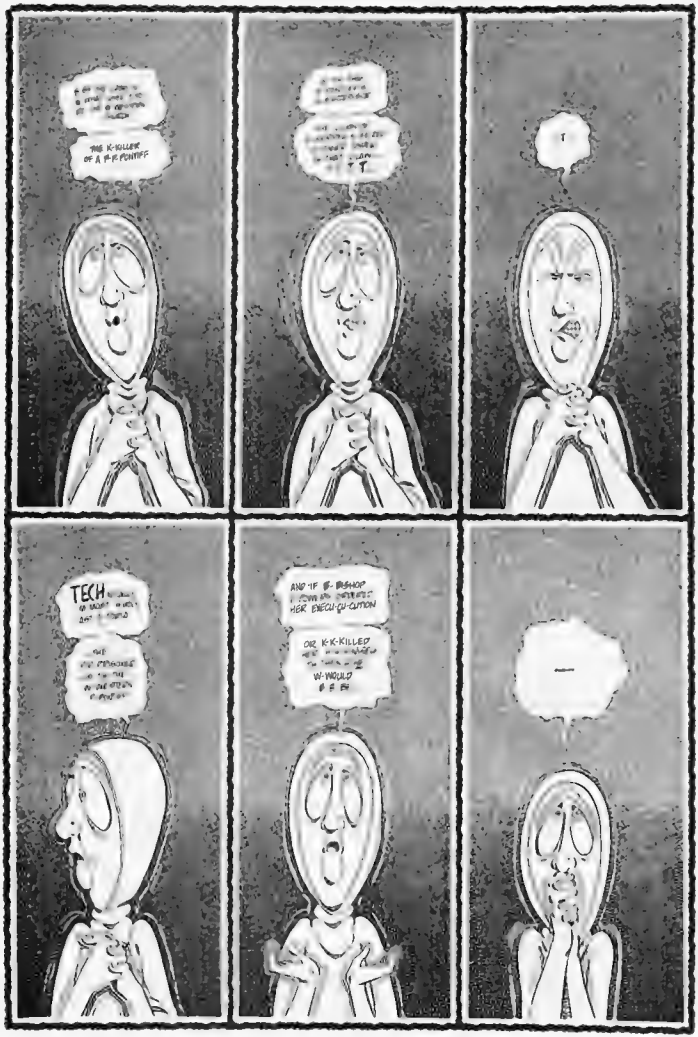
HIS..
..HIS HEART
YOU SEE ...
IT WOULDN'T ...
BURN.
GUARD!
I COULD SEE IT ...
GUARD!
GAG THE PRISONER

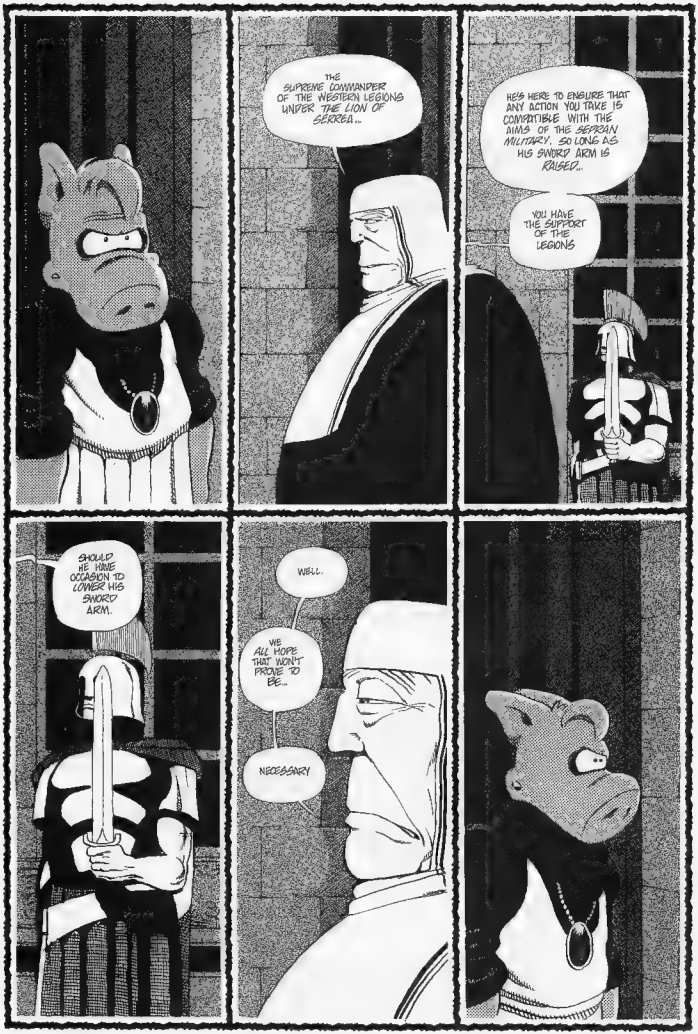

THERE ... IN THE EMBERS ... JUST...


MOST HOLY. THERE IS GREAT ...PERIL
SHE MUST BE... DEALT WITH... BEFORE SHE...
YOU WANT HER DEAD? POWERS? ...
YOU SENTENCE HER...

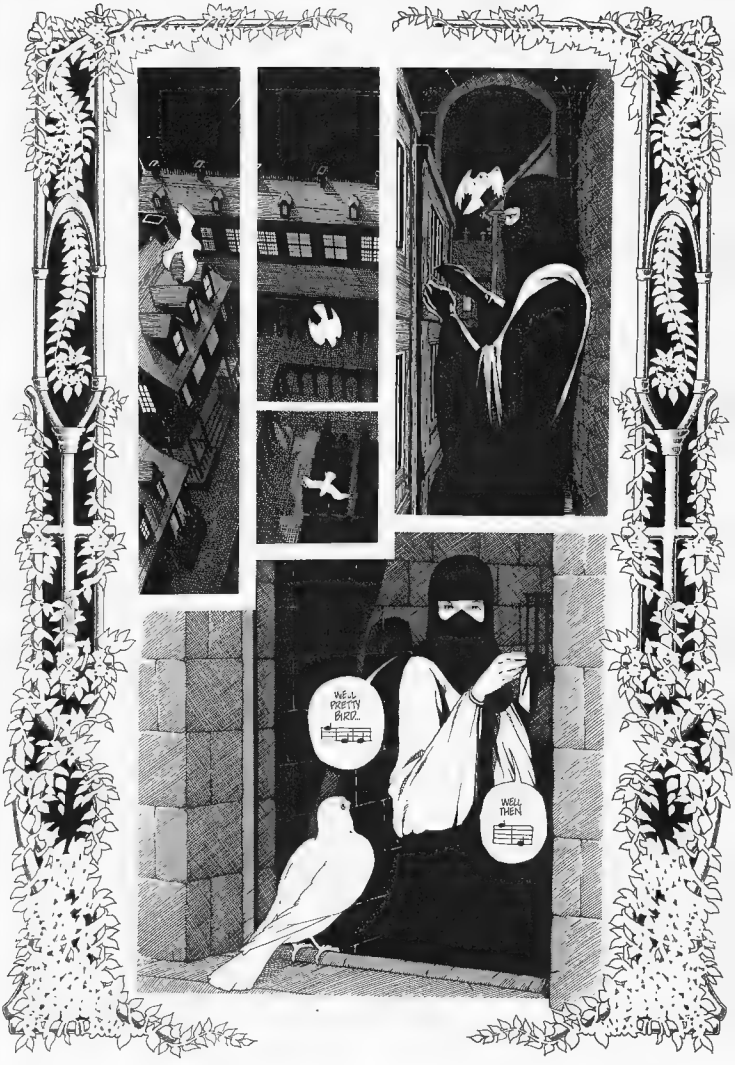

CEREBUS WASHES HIS HANDS OF THIS WHOLE MESS


PASS SENTENCE...? BUT...
I CAN'T
"CAN'T" POWERS? OR "WON'T"?
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.
TELL HIM.
MMM! MMM!
TELL HIM!
WHAT?
WHAT IS IT?

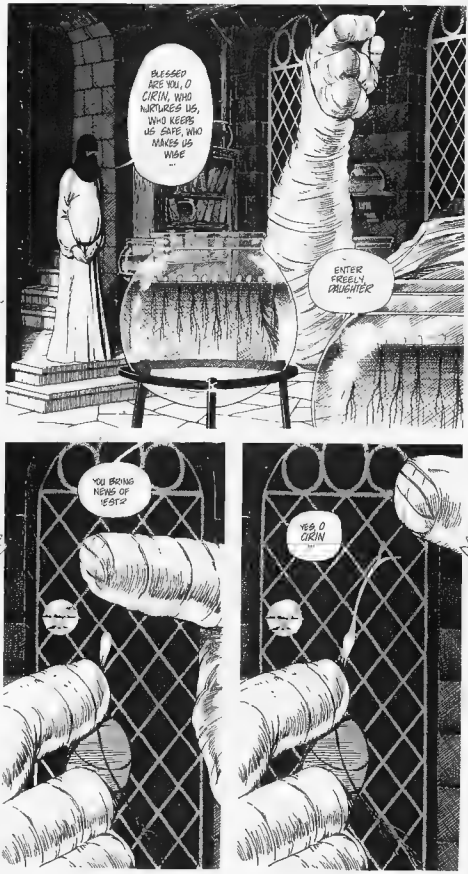

THE K-KILLER OF A P-P-PONTIFF
I
TECH
AND IF B- BISHOP
OR, K-K-KILLED
W-WOULD
B E EH
—

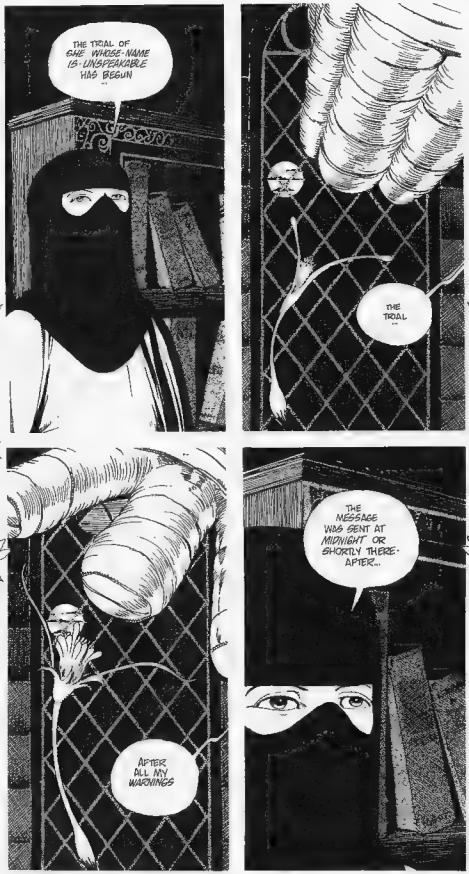

THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE WESTERN LEGIONS UNDER THE LION OF SERREA...
HE'S HERE TO ENSURE THAT ANY ACTION YOU TAKE IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE AIMS OF THE SERRAN MILITARY. SO LONG AS HIS SWORD ARM IS RAISED...
YOU HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE LEGIONS
SHOULD HE HAVE OCCASION TO LOWER HIS SWORD ARM.
WELL..
WE ALL HOPE THAT WON'T PROVE TO BE...
NECESSARY

YOU HAVE ONLY TO
A SWORN ENEMY
AND YOU WILL BE
THE UNDISPUTED
RULER OF THE
WHAT
THINK ABOUT?
WHAT?

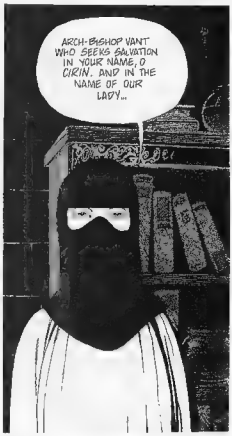

WELL PRETTY BIRD..
WELL THEN

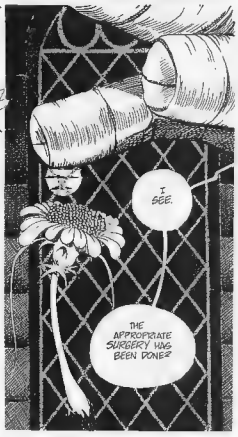
SUCH A PRETTY BIRD...
SOMETHING TO EAT?
MM
SOMETHING TO...


BLESSED ARE YOU, O CIRIN, WHO NURTURES US, WHO KEEPS US SAFE, WHO MAKES US WISE ...
ENTER FREELY, DAUGHTER ...
YOU BRING NEWS OF FEAST?
YES, O CIRIN ...


THE TRIAL OF SHE WHOSE NAME IS UNSPEAKABLE HAS BEGUN
THE TRIAL
THE MESSAGE WAS SENT AT MIDNIGHT OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER...
AFTER ALL MY WARNINGS

YOUR CORRESPONDENT IS RELIABLE?

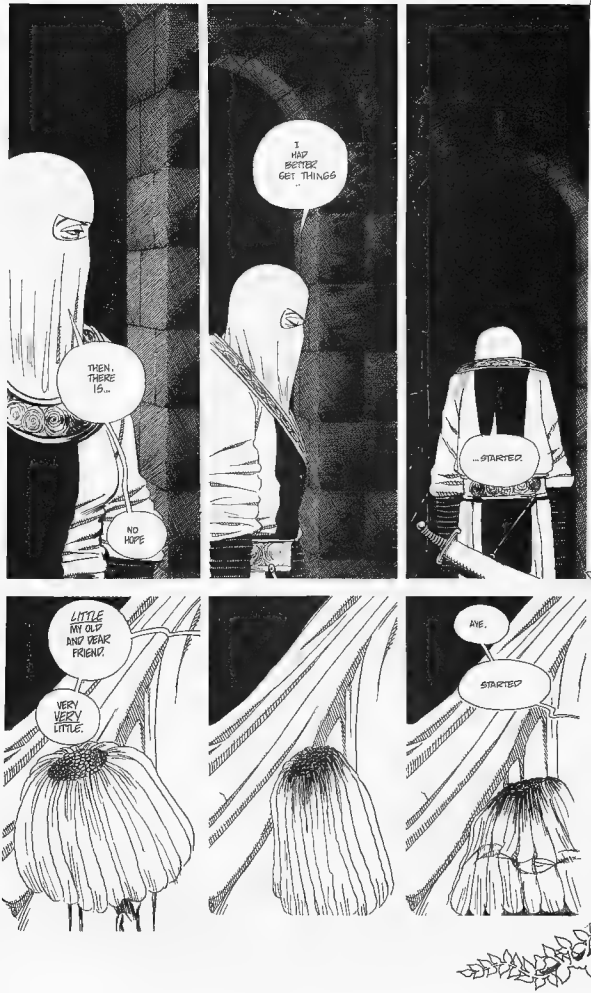

ARCH-BISHOP VANT. WHO SEEKS SALVATION IN YOUR NAME, O CIRIN. AND IN THE NAME OF OUR LADY...

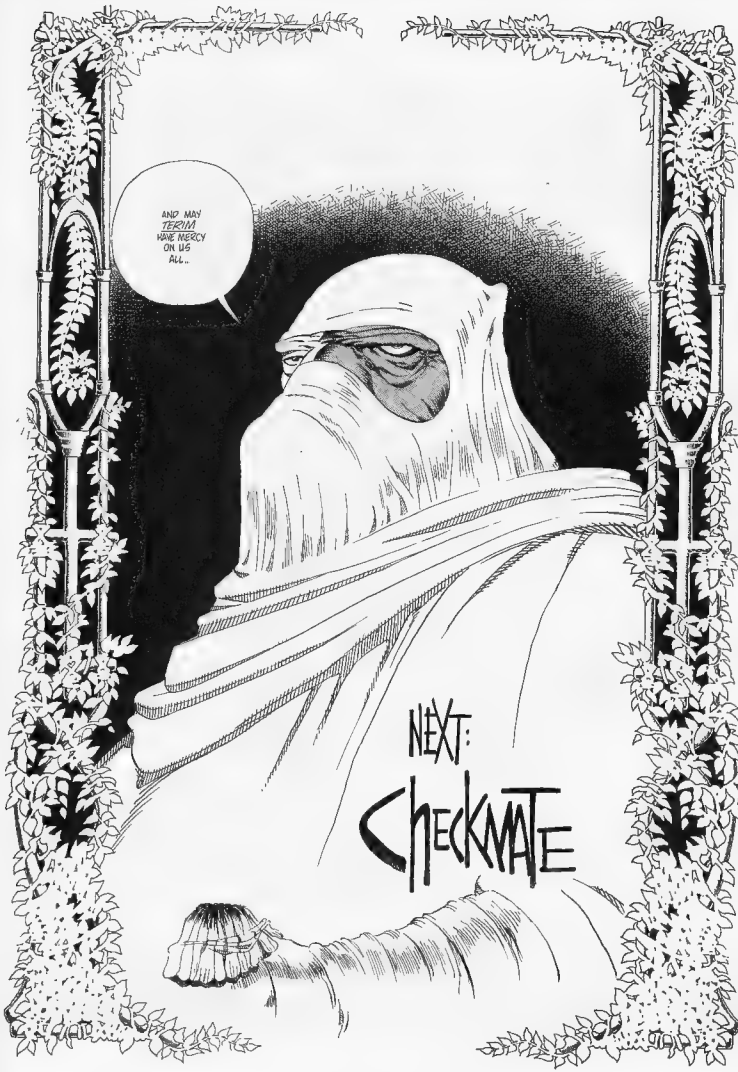

I SEE.
THE APPROPRIATE SURGERY HAS BEEN DONE?

YES, O CIRIN...

AND THE REMAINS OF THAT-WHICH-OFFENDS THE-SIGHT-OF-OUR-LADY HAVE BEEN BURNED IN COMPLIANCE WITH OUR LAWS?
YES, O CIRIN ..
GO NOW.
YOU MAY INFORM THE ARCHBISHOP THAT SALVATION HAS BEEN GRANTED HIM...
OUR LADY'S MERCY, O CIRIN

CIRCE!
I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR YOU COME IN.... MY MIND'S BEEN WANDERING SO...
THE INVASION OF LEST YOU SEE. IT'S
...TIME
YES, O CIRIN? TWO DIVISIONS?
ALL OF OUR FORCES
ALL? O CIRIN?
BUT SURELY
ALL OF OUR FORCES


THEN, THERE IS...
NO HOPE
I HAD BETTER GET THINGS ..
...STARTED.
LITTLE MY OLD AND DEAR FRIEND?
VERY VERY LITTLE.
AYE.
STARTED


AND MAY TERRA HAVE MERCY ON US ALL..
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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave:

Another "bi-weekly" Cerebus has come and gone, a few pages of dynamite art, but no emotional involvement, no plot advancement to speak of.

Occasionally I think, "another $1.70 down the tubes, but in a decade I'll own a complete set of a comic masterpiece". Other times I think "All the characters are turning into uniform bastards, cynically romantic self-righteous bastards...why do I read this?"

It's been nine years, though, as long as my marriage. That broke up for a while, and got back together. She bought the Cerebuses during the breakup, now we trade off. We also take turns being pissed off and fascinated by it. Cerebus is a reminder of my misspent youth, and, approaching middle age, nothing else in our lives has been this constant without actively interfering. You're starting to feel akin to my cranky uncle or something. The uneasy rapport with the fans keeps it personal.

No conclusions here, Dave. I like the constancy of old fuzzy-ears but bemoan his long, tedious journey toward an uncertain future. Of course, I know that all I have to do is wait, and things will change.

I won't stop buying Cerebus - that would be like setting fire to bonsai tree I was growing for my kids, something with a residual build-up of old memories that I can't let go of.

The aura that surrounds the book is unique. My wife and I have been through the cycle several times now - "Gosh, what a marvelous book!" "Gosh, what a disaster!" We're both at that age when shared history means more than practically anything else.

So, we'll still be buying Cerebus in ten years, as long as you keep it moving somehow.

Sincerely,

Richard Moorman

Just when I start to think that I miss being married.

****

Yo, uh, Dave guy,

I, uh, jus' 'tought I'd, uh, say som'tin' whut's been, uh, on my mind, y'know! Dis ain't addressed at, uh, youz, Daveguy, so, uh, jus' don't lissen.

To youz smart asses wut tink youz, uh, got da right to, uh, cuss out my poisonal, uh, friend - dat's youz, Daveguy - I have but, uh, one ting ta say, uh:

GET FUCKED.

To youz what, uh, haven't insulted my poisonal friend - uh, you again, Daveguy - I have but, uh, one udder ting ta'sav:

EXCUSE MY FUCKIN' LANGUAGE

Tanks for your time, and, uh, we'll see ya next munt!

Grashusly,

HOSS
Somewhere in, uh, Georgia

Yo.

****

Dear Mr. Sim,

In the April issue of Esquire magazine the feature article is about Woody Allen and his films. The writer of the article bitches and complains that Mr. Allen's movies have become too serious and that they aren't funny enough any more. The writer is upset because Woody doesn't please the fans. He then goes on to criticize Woody's philosophy of film-making and make suggestions on how Woody could improve his movies. Sound familiar?

Two of my real pleasures in life are Woody Allen and Dave Sim (no kidding), and one thing I can't stand are the "editor types" that constantly prove to be obstacles to these creative people. Perhaps "critic" would be a more fitting title for these people. Woody Allen has constantly been nagged by the critics, yet has still gone on to produce some of the finest moments of cinematic art ever produced by a North American film maker.

I believe that the comic book medium can be a valid form of artistic expression. Unfortunately it rarely escalates to the point Cerebus has reached. I blame this on these "editor type" people. The reason why a lot of really talented artists shy away from the comics medium is because it's too limiting as a result of editors. Unless you own your own company (like you), or you own all the rights to the character you are writing (like Sergio Aragones) you don't have the freedom to express yourself as freely as you might like. So you start to compromise your integrity and your high hopes of writing something good soon fade away. Without artistic freedom and room to grow, the comics medium will never rise above the status of "junk culture".

I'm not saying that you can't write a good story with a character that's not yours. Frank Miller is proof of that. But even in his case he has more freedom than most other writers of the Batman.

As for your attack on Cat Yronwode, Richard Pini and others, I couldn't be happier. I've always felt these people to be more a detrimental force in the comics medium than anything else. These people would be nothing in the first place. Just as John Cocteau clung to Picasso, he would have been just another second rate turd without somebody with real talent to mooch off of.

And as for you, Dave Sim, have a nice day. I love you more than a spring time breeze (really I do).

Sincerely,

Anthony Haagsma
Sarnia, Ontario

I bet you say that to all the independent-minded creators. Get outta here and I mean it, y' daffy bastard.

****

Dear Dave,

Have you ever seen the movie version of "The Fountainhead"? Or read the original novel by Ayn Rand? Certain lines from the film come to mind when I read some of the comments and letters concerning your attitude towards your work.

"The Fountainhead" is about an architect, Howard Roark, who will not compromise his standards in regard to his work. He has a chance to design a skyscraper, but the committee that wants to hire him will only do so on the condition that he allow

some minor alterations (or editing) on his work. He refuses, saying that they must take his work as it is, or not at all.

Roark at one point says, "I don't design buildings in order to have clients, I have clients in order to design buildings".

Another architect who wants to alter Roark's plans says, "After all, we should be able to express our individuality, too." Another person says, "on another man's work?"

There are more quotes from the movie (and the book) that are relevant here, but that should suffice. 'Nuff said.

In all the time I've read your works, Dave, I've never felt "pissed on" (as one reader said he'd felt), not even in issue #77, with the infamous 4-page urination scene. I guess I'm just secure enough to be able to face the kind of self-assuredness that you like (and deserve) to flaunt.

Keep it up,

Rodney Schroeter
Rt 1, Hwy DE 3268,
Random Lake, WI., 53075

Last time I flaunted my self-assuredness I ended up doing a ninety-day stretch.

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

It's starting to happen, man. After each issue the universe as I see it gets clearer. The puzzle is coming together and I'm starting to see the big picture. Cerebus has become like a drug for me, but one which only costs $1.70 for a fix, comes once a month, and has a definite finite quality to it. It will end in 204 months. I just hope that when I get there I won't be shaking or vomiting on myself. I'm with you all the way, Dave. It's issue 300 or you or I. Whichever comes first....

No, really, Dave, I think I know where all this is leading. I just want to make sure.

Psychologically victimized,

Jeffrey Goodman
872 Peralta,
San Francisco, CA., 94110

Y'know, it's funny. That's exactly what the red-head said to me last night.

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

Okay, send me a Church and State Vol. 1, okay? Okay. It's not like I don't have all the issues already, but it'll look so good on my bookshelf next to High Society. Besides, I have this prejudice which makes me want to offer my encouragement to guys I consider to be doing something really interesting. I admire your balls, Dave (psychological ones, of course!) Everyone's been calling you an asshole in the letters page lately, Yronwode call you a solipsist (well, almost. Close call, huh?), but you're getting a lot of respect, too. At the very least Cerebus is starting to get around.

Living right next to Hollywood as I do, I've had some exposure to the music happenings down here in the local clubs. I've seen flyers for a band called "Erebus" and for their logo they took one of your covers and just cut the "C" off of "Cerebus". There's also a band here called Necross. Being a bassist myself, I've taken the liberty of pasting a couple of Cerebuses (is that right?) onto my axe, which is sort of an op-art nightmare with four strings. Hope you don't mind.

Thanks to Paul Stockton for telling me where to find Mike Bannon. If I start buying the comic can I have a job?

Sincerely,

Hugh Bonar
170 Coburn St.,
Sierra Madre, CA., 91024

Whaddaya say, Paul? C'mon, be a good guy. Hugh's got an axe with Cerebuses on it and everything. Let him in the band, why don't ya?

★★★★★★★★★★

Hello Dave!

Last Saturday I went to a U2 concert and pogoed so high that Bono looked at me and said, "Watch out, you might break something". Pretty cool, huh?

Anyway, I picked up Cerebus #'s 95 and 96. I hope Astoria gets out of trouble. She's one of my favourite characters. Please save her, Dave!

Congratulations on selling all of the print run of "High Society". It's great to be able to pick up one book and read so much as opposed to yanking out a shitload of back issues from my comic book collection. My only suggestion is that in the future you get better binding. My copy of High Society was shipped to me with the cover half unglued.

If you're wondering if I'm just stalling to call you an officious cocksucking blackhead on the ass of life, I'm not. Actually, I have a couple of questions that might be on the minds of other people as well, and was hoping you could answer them.

1) Why aren't you reprinting the back-up stories from Swords of Cerebus in the Cerebus book? I think they would make the whole thing more interesting, not to mention flow better.

2) Since issue #51 isn't going to be included in Church and State, have you considered re-releasing it on the newstands? It's impossible to find at the moment.

3) Why does it cost so much to subscribe to Cerebus? Buying it on the stands is over nine dollars less per year than getting it by mail.

4) Here's a way you could fill in the new readers who won't or can't pay for the big reprint books - you could come out with a comic sized index of every issue of Cerebus (and his appearances in other books) with plot summaries. Any comment?

5) The cover art of Cerebus is something worth the price of admission in itself. Any plans of a book featuring nothing but cover art?

6) I heard that you and Matt Wagner might work together in the future. Can you tell us anything about that?

7) Another poster would be nice, maybe to commemorate issue 100. It would be neat to have, like, every prominent character from #1 up.

Thanks for your time. If you don't have room to print this, it would be great if you'd jot down the answers on a piece of paper and mail 'em to me. Say Hi to Gerhard for me ("Hi Gerhard") and if you ever do go on tour, stop on Long Island. Oh, and tell Red Sophia that if she doesn't love the ol' earth pig anymore, I'm available.

Sewage, Sewage, Sewage!

Claude Flowers
133 Berry Hill Road,
Oyster Bay, NY., 11771

1) I'd like to give something to the people who supported Swords all those years when I needed the bread. I figure introductions and stories not available elsewhere (the reason a lot of people bought them in the first place) make a nice reward.

2) I've considered it. Not right now, though.

3) We like to encourage people to support their local comic shop.

4) Sounds like one of those stupid Marvel ideas.

5) Sounds like one of those stupid DC ideas.

6) I can but I won't.

7) Let me know when you've got it done.

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High Society (first printing) is sold out (still). Please stop sending money unless you are prepared to wait until October for your copy of the second printing. I would prefer (if you want a copy of the second printing) that you notify your local shop owner, so that he can inform his distributor and (three months from now) his distributor can inform us. I could be a real son of a bitch and urge you to order from us, but I am curious to see if we can get a respectable number of copies ordered through the traditional direct-sales outlets. So, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE notify your shop owner if you want a copy of the second printing. Thank you.

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